

departed friend was so signally characterized, and cannot withhold the tribute of our admiration from that devotion to duty which found him, as his lamp of life was drawing to its last faint glimmer, still at his post, intent on the fulfilment of a professional service, while his dying breath expressed his gratitude for the privilege of having lived at a period when so much of truth and improvement had been developed in the world, and that in his day and generation he had been permitted to share in the many and varied enjoyments which science and ingenuity had diffused.

Resolved, That a member of the Academy be appointed to prepare a suitable memoir of our departed fellow member.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be communicated to the family of the deceased, with the heartfelt condolence of the Academy on this mournful occasion.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and Prof. Johnson appointed to prepare the memoir.

Meeting for Business, November 24, 1846.

VICE PRESIDENT WETHERILL in the Chair.

The Monthly Report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and adopted.

The Committee on the following paper by Mr. Haldeman, reported in favor of publication.

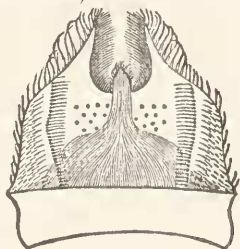
On several New Genera and Species of Insects.

By S. S. HALDEMAN.

Whilst engaged in making dissections of the mouth of several species of COPRIS for the purpose of learning their true generic character, I was struck with the dissimilarity existing in the labrum. I consider the European COPRIS *lunaris* as the type of the genus, because European naturalists have usually constructed the genera, and the type should be a species whose habits are well known. To prevent confusion, the author who subdivides

an old genus, should generally be allowed to decide what portion is to retain the old generic name. The rule which adopts as the type the species which stands first in an author's work, is not applicable in all cases, because these were not always considered the type of the genus. An author might name a genus *GEOTRUPES* from the known habits of a European species, and commence his list with a large exotic species having entirely different habits, and not really congeneric with it. In such a case it would be obviously improper to consider the latter as the type of the genus *GEOTRUPES*. Moreover, instead of being the type, the initial species may have been thus placed from its resemblance to the preceding genus; and it is obvious that the animal which most nearly approaches another genus, cannot be the type of that to which it really belongs.

1. *BRACHYCOPRIS*. The type of this new genus is the well known *COPRIS carolina*. In *COPRIS* the labrum is subquadrate, rather widest anteriorly; the anterior margin transverse, slightly emarginate, with a medial projecting appendicle, and the exterior margins rounded. In *BRACHYCOPRIS* the labrum is distantly triangular, widest at base, and much narrowed anteriorly, where it is deeply emarginate, leaving a lateral aculeate process, the appendicle projecting from the base of the emargination, as represented in the figure. The basal articulation of the labial palpi is proportionally much larger than in *Copris*. This body is contracted in length; and in the type, the elytra are sulcate and the tibiæ unarmed.



COPRIS molossus would upon first view be placed nearer to *C. carolina* than to *C. lunaris*, or the American *C. anaglypticus*, Say. Its labrum, however, associates it with these. Mr. Hope has made it the type of his genus *CATHARSIUS*. It has the labrum more regular, more nearly quadrate, and the anterior half only of the medial solid portion is covered with hair, the posterior portion presenting a smooth furrow with a well defined margin.

2. *PRIONUS fissicornis*. General characters as in *P. imbricornis*. Blackish brown, antennæ thick, imbricate, reaching the middle of the elytra, 25 articulate, canaliculate beneath by means of a deep emargination in the articulations, which are somewhat v-shaped when detached, the posterior branch the longer, with its apex incurved: prothorax with three lateral teeth. 11 lines long.

For this interesting species I am indebted to my friend Dr. J. L. Le Conte, who found it near the Rocky mountains. It is re-

markable for the emargination and number of the articulations of the antennæ, which are more numerous than in any native species hitherto described. The globular base of the second is not enumerated; twenty-four are imbricate, and the final one has a small additional process rising out of its concavity. In *P. imbricornis* the antennæ of the male have nineteen, and of the female, seventeen articulations.

3. *SPHENOSTETHUS*. Allied to *PRIONUS*. Head small, narrower than the thorax, concave above; eyes slightly emarginate anteriorly; antennæ less than half the entire length, slender and compressed, second articulation longest, subsequent ones gradually decreasing, with a tendency to serration beneath; mandibles robust, toothed; palpi with the terminal articulation triangular: prothorax transverse, narrower than the elytra, contracted anteriorly, concave posteriorly, the external margins unarmed: pro and mesosternum conjointly carinate, in close contact, the latter entering an acute emargination of the former: scutel triangular: elytra separately rounded at base, moderately tapering and dehiscent; sides incurved, apex minutely serrate: feet slender.

4. *S. serripennis*. Shining black, punctate scabrous above; front with a wide depression having an impressed medial line; pronotum with two approximate impressed punctures upon each side arranged diagonally, medial line visibly impressed posteriorly; external margins convex, emarginate at the posterior angles; posterior margin convex in the centre and concave laterally: elytra meeting the pronotum in close contact, a shallow scabrous impression at the base; apex finely serrate. Length $11\frac{1}{2}$; prothorax 2; elytra 8; width at base 4 lines.

A single specimen taken in south-eastern Pennsylvania. Another seen in Le Conte's cabinet, probably taken in New York. Probably allied to *PRIONUS muticus*, Fabr. ii. 265. It is remarkable for the close contact of the prothorax with the elytra and scutel above and the mesosternum below.

5. *MOLORCHUS tenuipes*. Black, frontal line deeply impressed: prothorax cylindrical: elytra dark fuscous, obsoletely fulvous at base: medial and posterior feet very slender. 3 lines long.

The larva inhabits detached branches of the genus *Carya*, (hickory), the perfect insect appearing in May in S. E. Pennsylvania.

6. *ENOPLIUM venustum*. Dark brown, with minute fulvous hairs: middle of the elytra with a broad irregular transverse silvery band. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lines long. South-eastern Pennsylvania.

Base and half the terminal articulation of the antennæ, palpi, anterior tarsi, and base of the femora, pale yellow: pronotum tuberculate: elytra with numerous dilated impressed punctures: apex pale yellowish brown, and with the base marked with a few small spots of yellow; the central white portion has several

spots of black, and is bounded posteriorly by a black zigzag line, the black enlarging towards the suture; medial and posterior feet pale yellow; the femora with the middle and the tibiæ with the terminal half, brown. Apparently allied to *E. bimaculatum*, Mels., Proceed. Acad. 2, 307. According to Dr. Le Conte this is the *venustum* of Dejean's Catalogue.

7. *HETERODROMIA* [Fam. Donaciadæ.] Body slender, punctate-scabrous: head advanced; eyes rather prominent, reticulate; antennæ 11-articulate, slender, longer than the head and prothorax, first articulation longer than the second and third, last fusiform: mandibles strong, short, incurved: palpi 3-articulate, final articulation subsecuriform, prothorax subelongate, narrowed behind: elytra subparallel, narrowing towards the apex, wider than the prothorax, conjointly rounded at tip: feet slender, subelongate, posterior femora incrassate.

8. *H. velox*. Thickly punctured, hirsute, pale yellow; head, anterior margin of the prothorax, and seventh, (at the apex) eighth, ninth and tenth articulations of the antennæ, black: elytra lineate punctate, with a tendency to fuscous behind the middle: abdomen obscure fuscous, feet pale. $4\frac{1}{2}$ millim. long.

Var. a. Having three transverse fuscous dots on the pronotum, and a large sutural fuscous spot at the base of the elytra.

Found in May, upon grass and under stones and rubbish, in Pennsylvania, Carolina, Alabama and Ohio. It runs with great rapidity, and resembles some of the Carabidæ. The species described might at first view be taken for the *DEMETRIAS atricapillus*, Linn.

9. *TROGUS nubilipennis*. Fulvous; antennæ, eyes, vertex, and five terminal segments of the abdomen, with half the preceding one, black: wings fuliginous, mottled with a few spots of yellow in the middle and at the base: mesosternum tipped with black: abdomen shining black beneath: inside of the base of the femora and trochanters blackish: tibiæ, tarsi, front and base of the antennæ beneath, yellow. 11 lines long, expanse 19.

About a year ago I sent a description and specimen abroad, which seems to differ from the present one, as the segment of the abdomen upon which the two colors meet is described with "maculâ longitudinali nigrâ in medio, et nigro-marginato;" and the wings "fuligine flavoque nubilatis." There are a few minute white specks upon the alar nervures; one on the *medial*, a little within the small intercubital cell; one exterior to the same cell; and two on the interdiscoidal nervure running from it.

10. *IBALIA maculipennis* ♀. Yellow; meso- and metathorax black, except the scutel and two longitudinal bands above, and a spot beneath the wings: eyes, apex of the antennæ, base of the coxæ, and middle of the femora, (the greater part of the posterior ones)

black: posterior tibiæ blackish towards the apex: wings yellow, apex and a central spot fuliginous. 7 lines long, 11 expanse. South eastern Pennsylvania, in May and June.

The following amendments to the By-Laws were adopted:

Chap. V. Art. VI., to commence thus: "The duty of the Librarian shall be to attend daily at the Hall from 11 o'clock, A. M., to 2½, P. M., &c."

And to add to the same Chapter:

Art. VIII. The Chairman of the Curators shall attend daily at the Hall from 2½, P. M. until sunset, to perform the duties of his office.

The following preamble and resolutions, offered by Dr. Morton, were adopted:

Whereas, Dr. Thomas B. Wilson has made this institution the depository of his magnificent collection of Birds, which, from the number, beauty and variety of its specimens, already ranks as the fourth extant; and

Whereas, Dr. Wilson is assiduously extending and perfecting this collection for the interests of science and of this institution; and

Whereas, The collection of the Academy is comparatively small and incomplete, and must continue to be so, inasmuch as the former incentive to increase it no longer exists, and also since two collections in Ornithology are unnecessary and inexpedient;

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the collection of birds now belonging to the Academy, be merged in the *Wilson Collection*.

Resolved, That the galleries now occupied by the Ornithological collection of the Academy, with such of the cases as may be required, be appropriated to the use of the joint collection.

Resolved, That the Zoological Committee be authorized and instructed to carry into effect the foregoing resolutions.